

H. Res. 421

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

June 6, 2007.

Whereas all of the Mercury 13 women were accomplished pilots with commercial ratings or better and at least 2,000 hours of flying time;

Whereas the Mercury 13 women passed the same rigorous physical and psychological tests that the original Mercury 7 astronauts had to undergo;

Whereas the Mercury 13 women successfully completed their testing at the Lovelace Clinic, in Albuquerque, New Mexico by the end of 1961;

Whereas the Mercury 13 women were prepared to continue their contributions to America's space program at the Naval School of Aviation Medicine in Pensacola, Florida, by undergoing advanced aeromedical examinations using jet aircraft and military equipment, until they were informed that their testing program was canceled;

Whereas the Soviet Union flew the first woman in space in 1963;

Whereas the United States flew the first American woman in space, Dr. Sally Ride, in 1983;

Whereas the United States flew the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle, Lt. Col. Eileen Collins, in 1995;

Whereas the Mercury 13 women served as pathfinders for NASA's female astronauts; and

Whereas the careers of accomplishment of the Mercury 13 women can serve as an inspiration for other young women who are considering pursuing a career in aviation, astronautics, science, or engineering: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors the contributions of Myrtle Cagle, Geraldyn “Jerrie” Cobb, Jan Dietrich, Marion Dietrich, Mary Wallace “Wally” Funk, Jane Briggs Hart, Jean Hixson, Gene Nora Stumbough Jessen, Irene Leverton, Sarah Lee Gorelick Ratley, Bernice Trimble Steadman, Geraldine “Jerri” Sloan Truhill, and Rhea Hurrell Allison Woltman; and

(2) encourages young women to follow in the footsteps of the Mercury 13 women and pursue careers of excellence in aviation and astronautics, as well as in engineering and science.

Attest:

Clerk.